

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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O R 061430Z MAR 77  
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE  
TO SECSTATE NIACT IMMEDIATE 1165  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAHORE 0184

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PK  
SUBJECT: ELECTION CAMPAIGN WINDS UP

REF: LAHORE 0178 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: PPP AND PNA ENDED ELECTION CAMPAIGN MARCH 5 WITH ELECTION RALLIES IN LAHORE. BHUTTO PROMISED IMPARTIAL POLL. VOWING TO CRUSH ANY ATTEMPTED DISRUPTION "IN A FEW HOURS." LAW AND ORDER SITUATION REMAINS UNDER CONTROL. SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN ACTIVATED TO INSURE PEACEFUL POLLING, ARMY PUT ON DISPLAY." END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO WOUND UP PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (PPP) CCAMPAIGN MARCH 5 WITH A HUGE PROCESSION IN LAHORE WHICH LASTED 10 HOURS. SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE REPORTEDLY PARTICIPATED, REMINISCENT OF BHUTTO'S 1970 RALLIES. CROWD APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD MOOD AND THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE. IN SPEECHES AT VARIOUS POINTS ALONG ROUTE WHICH WOUND THROUGH CITY AND ENDED UP AT MINAR-I-PAKISTAN, PM BLASTED OPPOSITION'S ALLEGED ANTI-NATIONAL CHARACTER. (PAKISTAN TIMES LEAD STORY NEXT DAY WAS HEADLINED "PUNJAB WILL DEFEAT ANTI-PAKISTAN FRONT.") BHUTTO SAID OPPOSITION  
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CONTAINED SAME ELEMENTS WHO HAD COLLABORATED AGAIST QUAID-I-AZAM TO PREVENT ESTABLISHMENT OF PAKISTAN AND WORKED WITH SHEIK MUJIBUT RAHMMAN TO BREAK UP COUNTRY. IF THEY CAME TO POWER AND ALLOWED WALI KHAN TO GO FREE, SECURITY OF NATION WOULD FURTHER BE IMPERILED.

3. BHUTTO VOWED THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD IMPARTIALLY.

ALL NECESSARY STEPS, HE SAID, HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO INSURE PEACEFUL POLLING. REFURING RECENT OPPOSITION CHARGE THAT HE WOULD FLEE COUNTRY BEFORE ELECTION, PM SAID HE "I WILL LIVE AND DIE IN PAKISTAN....IT IS UNTHINKABLE FOR ME TO FLEE MY COUNTRY WHICH IS MY MOTHERLAND AND FOR WHICH I AM READY TO SACRIFICE MY LIFE." BHUTTO SAID PPP STOOD FOR RIGHTS OF TOILING MASSES -- WORKERS AND PEASANTS -- WHILE OPPOSITION SERVED INTERESTS OF CAPITALISTS AND BIG BUSINESS. HE REITERATED VARIOUS REFORMS HE HAS CARRIED OUT AND PROMISED TO ACCOMPLISH "TWO OR THREE MEMORABLE TASKS IF RE-ELECTED." HOWEVER, HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT THEY MIGHT BE.

4. OPPOSITION HELD HUGE CAMPAIGN PROCESSION IN LAHORE SAME DAY. HOWEVER, CROWD WAS NOT AS LARGE. ONE EYEWITNESS REPORTED THAT PNA SUPPORTERS WERE A BIT ROWDY, BUT SITUATION REMAINED UNDER CONTROL. MAULANA MUFTI MAHMUD, PRESIDENT KPNA), RAFIQ AHMAD AHMAD BAJWA, GENERAL SECRETARY KPANLAND AND OTHER OPPOSITION CANDIDATES AND LEADERS ADDRESSED PEOPLE ALONG WAY AS PROCESSION CRISSCROSSED ROUTE FOLLOWED BY PPP. (AIR MARCHAL WAS IN RAWALPINDI WHERE HE HELD A LARGE ELECTION RALLY.) MUFTI, WHO TOOK PART IN ANOTHER OPPOSITION RALLY IN MULTAN LATER SAME DAY, ANNOUNCED PNA HAD TURNED DOWN ELECTION COMMISSION'S APPEAL TO ESCHEW CAMPAIGNING MARCH 8 FOR PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. (COMMISSION RULED THAT CAMPAIGNING ON 8TH WAS PERMISSABLE, BUT HAD APPEALED TO ALL PARTIES NOT TO DO SO. HOWEVER, ANNOUNCEMENT BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MARCH 5 THAT SECTION 144 WILL BE IMPOSED THAT DAY MAY CAUSE OPPOSITION TO RECONSIDER: SEE PARA 5 BELOW.)

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5. LAW AND ORDER: SITUATION REMAINED UNDER CONTROL DURING MARCH 5 PROCESSIONS. NO SERIOUS INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED WHEN RELIGIOUS PROCESSION WERE TAKEN OUT MARCH 3 TO CELEBRATE PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED MARCH 5 THAT ALL SECURITY FORCES AVAILABLE TO AID CIVIL AUTHORITY WILL BE USED FROM MARCH 6 UNTIL MARCH 10 TO INSURE FREE POLL AND MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER. VERDICT OF PEOPLE, ANNOUNCEMENT SAID, MUST BE ACCEPTED BY ALL PARTIES. IN ADDITION, SECTION 144 WILL BE IMPOSED MARCH 8 TO PREVENT FURTHER CAMPAIGNING FOR PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. BHUTTO WARNED AT LAHORE RALLY THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO CREATE DISRUPTION (BY OPPOSITIONS) WOULD BE CRUSHED "IN A FEW HOURS." SMALL CONVOYS OF ARMY TROOPS IN FULL BATTLE GEAR MOVE ABOUT PARTS OF CITY ON "DISPLAY" MARCH 6, A REMINDER GOVERNMENT MEANS BUSINESS. CONGEN COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER SIGHTED SMALL ARMY ENCAMPMENT SAME DAY ON EDGE OF LAHORE'S GULBERG RESIDENTIAL AREA EVIDENCE THAT TROOPS ARE BEING MOVED INTO CITY FOR FIRST TIME.

GAMON

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## Message Attributes

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